

Filed for intro on 05/12/2003

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 437  
By Fowler

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Family Christian Academy Mock Trial Team on winning the 2003 National High School Mock Trial Championship.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to recognize those outstanding academic teams that, through competition, bring great honor to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy academic team is the Family Christian Academy Mock Trial Team, which recently completed another outstanding season, earning the 2003 National High School Mock Trial Championship; this is the team's second-straight national championship; and

WHEREAS, comprised of students from various homeschool programs in Chattanooga, last year's Family Christian Academy team became the first homeschooled team in the United States to qualify for the prestigious National High School Mock Trial Championships; and

WHEREAS, despite losing two team members to graduation, this year the team set a precedent as the first team to repeat as national champions in consecutive years; and

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WHEREAS, the Family Christian Academy team successfully competed in a field that included teams from forty-two states plus the Mariana Islands, all of them vying to unseat the returning champions; and

WHEREAS, the team's victory was unanimous among all scoring judges and on all ballots in all rounds including the finals; furthermore, the team obtained the highest cumulative point score ever seen in the history of the competition; and

WHEREAS, committed to excellence, the members of this team have garnered numerous awards and honors, including their second Tennessee Bar Association's State High School Mock Trial Championship in as many years; and

WHEREAS, the members of this outstanding team are Beth Coleman, Amber Gruber, Tyler Randolph, and siblings Anna, Joshua, and Matthew Downer; and

WHEREAS, the Family Christian Academy Mock Trial Team has been inspired to greater heights by Head Coach and Attorney, Mr. Jeff Atherton; this is Mr. Atherton's twelfth year as coach of the Family Christian Academy teams; and

WHEREAS, the team and Mr. Atherton were again supported by Assistant Coach and Attorney, Mr. Matthew Hargraves; and

WHEREAS, the team is grateful for the love and support of their parents, and for the financial support offered by the Tennessee Bar Association, the Chattanooga Bar Association, and the Chattanooga Bar Foundation Fellows; and

WHEREAS, the academic excellence attained by this phenomenal mock trial program is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of the coaches and team members alike and deserves special recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the members of the Family Christian Academy

Mock Trial Team on winning their second-straight National High School Mock Trial Championship and wish them well in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.